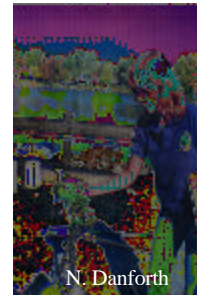


HOT TOPIC

Water Chestnut Removal



This summer, Water Chestnut (*Trapa natans*) was discovered in Ellis Pond in Norwood and DEM Lakes and Ponds staff visited Ellis Pond to confirm and record the extent of the Water Chestnut infestation. The watershed team leader and other interested parties were notified of the problem that Ellis Pond was facing, and the invasive species Rapid Response Team (RRT) members, along with NepRWA began to develop a plan to remove the Water Chestnut from the Ellis Pond.



Water Chestnut, unlike Milfoil and Fanwort, does not spread via fragmentation, and due to the relatively low abundance of the plant, hand pulling was selected as the best management option. Prior to the hand pulling event, NepWRA designed an informational leaflet to hang on the doors of the pond residents and followed the leafletting with phone calls to help answer questions and solicit volunteers. DEM Outreach and Education Coordinator, Nina Danforth, contacted the conservation commission, coordinated the various agencies and set the event date for October 17, 2003. Jim Straub and Steve Asen from the Lakes and Ponds Program collected canoes that the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) loaned to volunteers. Al Goetz obtained commitment from the town of Norwood to pick up and properly compost or dispose of the Water Chestnut once it was collected.



On the day of the event, nineteen volunteers listened while DEM Lakes & Ponds Program Manager Anne Monnelly explained why Water Chestnut was a considered a serious threat to Ellis Pond, and how to identify and hand pull the species. The volunteers worked in teams, two people per canoe, equipped with buckets, gloves, and life vests, to attack the water chestnut. A reporter attended and documented the Ellis Pond Hand Pulling Day. DEM Aquatic Biologist Michelle Robinson photographed the event and surveyed the other vegetation in Ellis Pond. The hand pulling lasted less than two hours and by 3:00 p.m. the canoes and volunteers were back on shore for a debriefing and evaluation of the process.

Volunteers:

Carl Fisherman
Roger Turner
Doug & Barbara Holdridge
Stu Skinner
Jessica Stephens
Richard Johnson
Tom Palmer
Ian Cooke
Wendy Parisi
Claire Cheney
Maggie Hillis
Margaret Kearns

